and flourished in the countries in which its remains are now found, at a period of time which, in the history of the earth, may be considered only as modern; and that the extinction of the species is attributable rather to the continued persecution it endured from its enemies, accelerated by incidental local causes, than to any general catastrophe that overwhelmed the surface of the globe.

The spot examined by the author containing these remains, is near the village of Dundrum, in Down: it appears formerly to have been a lake, and is now covered with peat lying upon a bed of marl. The bones are invariably found between these two substances, and from the examination of the shells contained in the latter, it appears that they are exclusively fresh-water species.

The peat bog of Rathcannon, in the county of Limerick, has also furnished abundance of the same bones, similarly situated. These were examined by the Rev. Mr. Maunsell before they were displaced. Some of them showed marks of disease and fractures, and in one case the rib was singularly perforated, as if by a sharp instrument. Marrow, having the appearance of fresh suet, was found in the cavity of one shank-bone, and they appeared generally to contain all the principles found in fresh bones.

These and some other concurrent circumstances seem, says the author, to remove all idea of the remains of the Irish elk being of any other than comparatively recent origin; and in seeking for a cause of the nearly constant distribution of these remains in Ireland in swampy spots, he conjectures that the animal may have often sought the waters and the marshy land as a place of refuge from its enemies, and thus not unfrequently found a grave where it looked for protection.

Microscopical Observations on the Materials of the Brain, and of the Ova of Animals, to show the analogy that exists between them. By Sir Everard Home, *Bart. V.P.R.S. Read at the Society for promoting Animal Chemistry, April* 12, 1825. Read at the Royal Society June 3, 1822. [*Phil. Trans.* 1825, *p.* 436.]

The author first details the results of some experiments made with a view to ascertain whether frogs, that had been completely frozen, could, under any circumstances, be restored to life, which he found never to be the case when the brain had been entirely congealed, the substance of which, after such process, never regains its former appearance, but is dissolved into a watery fluid, mixed with some gelatinous matter. In the act of freezing, the human brain was found to suffer a similar decomposition; the molecule of a pullet's egg is also resolved during the process of freezing into materials corresponding with those of the brain, and the testicular secretion was found to be similarly constituted, and in no instance to contain animalcules, as Leuenhoek and other more recent authors have affirmed. Magnified drawings, executed by Mr. Bauer, of the various substances described in this paper, accompany the communication.